

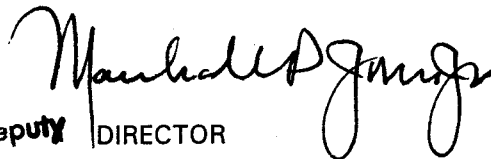


U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

PART 243 FW 1-5	SUBJECT Motor Vehicle and Motor Equipment Safety Safe Operation of Motor Vehicles and Motor Equipment Special Purpose Trucks Heavy-Duty Motor Equipment Powered Industrial Trucks Towing, Cargo Carrying, and Load Securement	RELEASE NUMBER 444
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT Division of Safety and Health		DATE April 1, 2004

EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:

The chapters in Part 243 establish Fish and Wildlife Service policies for the safe operation of motorized vehicles and motor equipment. 243 FW 1 provides authorities and definitions, assigns responsibilities, and outlines general requirements for the safe operation of motor vehicles and motor equipment. 243 FW 2 establishes safety requirements for fish distribution, fire, and dump trucks. 243 FW 3 outlines safety requirements for heavy-duty motor equipment. 243 FW 4 provides requirements for the safe operation of powered industrial trucks. 243 FW 5 provides safety requirements for towing, carrying cargo, and load securement.


Deputy DIRECTOR

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

Remove:

241 FW 2, 09/22/95, FWM 215
Exhibit 1, 241 FW 2, 09/22/95, FWM 215

Insert:

243 FW 1, 04/01/04, FWM 444
243 FW 2, 04/01/04, FWM 444
243 FW 3, 04/01/04, FWM 444
243 FW 4, 04/01/04, FWM 444
243 FW 5, 04/01/04, FWM 444

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

Occupational Safety and Health

Part 243 Motor Vehicle and Motor Equipment Safety

Chapter 4 Powered Industrial Trucks

243 FW 4

4.1 What is the purpose of this chapter? This chapter establishes safety requirements for operation of powered industrial trucks (PIT). Use this chapter in conjunction with the other chapters in Part 243.

4.2 What governs the use of PIT's? Operation and training for PIT's (forklifts) will, at a minimum, comply with 321 FW 1 and the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) standards](#) found in 29 CFR 1910.178.

4.3 Are seat belts required? All PIT's manufactured since 1993 have operator restraint systems (seat belts or other type) that must be worn at all times when operating PIT's.

4.4 Are there hazards associated with PIT's? Hazards vary for different vehicle types, makes, and models. For example, a counterbalanced high lift rider truck is more likely to be involved in a falling load accident than a motorized hand truck because the rider truck can lift a load much higher than a hand truck. The methods or means of preventing accidents and protecting employees from injury also vary for different types of trucks. PIT's are designed for operation in environments specifically classified with regard to nature of existing hazards.

4.5 What are the safety requirements for PIT's?

A. High lift rider trucks will be fitted with an overhead guard manufactured in accordance with the American National Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks, Part II, ANSI B56.1-1969, unless operating conditions do not permit.

B. Fork trucks must be equipped with a vertical load back rest extension manufactured in accordance with the American National Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks, if the type of load presents this hazard.

4.6 Are there restrictions on PIT operation?

A. Do not allow unauthorized personnel to ride on a PIT, and do not allow anyone to pass under raised loads or forks.

B. Personnel may work from a platform on a PIT only when the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.178(m) are met. Lifting personnel is only permitted when a truck is equipped with vertical only, or vertical and horizontal controls elevatable with the lifting carriage or forks for lifting personnel; the safety platform is firmly secured to the lifting carriage or forks for lifting personnel; means are provided whereby personnel on the platform can shut power off to the truck; and adequate protection from falling objects is provided. In addition, the PIT's manufacturer

must provide a letter stating that the lift platform being used is compatible with the PIT model.

C. PIT operators will not operate any PIT in an incompatible environment per the equipment's assigned designation; e.g., G-gasoline and D-diesel powered units must not be operated in certain areas such as confined spaces due to the hazard of unburned fuel exhausts, etc.

4.7 What are the training requirements for PIT operators? PIT operators will receive training in accordance with 321 FW 1.

4.8 Where can I find standards for battery removal, repair, and charging? Whenever a PIT's battery needs removal, repair, or maintenance, the following OSHA standards apply, and employees must follow the required actions of each:

A. Powered Industrial Trucks, 29 CFR 1910.178(g).

B. Overhead and Gantry Cranes, 29 CFR 1910.179.

C. Personal Protective Equipment, 29 CFR 1910.132.

D. Medical Services and First Aid, 29 CFR 1910.151.

E. Hazardous Locations, 29 CFR 1910.307.

4.9 Do battery charging areas need to meet specific safety requirements?

A. Charging areas must comply with 29 CFR 1910.178(g) and applicable requirements of the National Electric Code (including sections 503 and 505). In the event of a conflict between the regulations, the more stringent will apply.

B. The preferred lift trucks should be of the type that has self-contained "plug-in" recharging systems, and no contact is required with the battery.

C. Battery charging installations must be located in areas designated for that purpose.

D. Trucks will be properly positioned and brakes applied before attempting to charge batteries.

E. When charging batteries, keep the vent cap in place to avoid electrolyte spray. Make sure that vent caps are functioning. The battery (or compartment) cover(s) will be open to dissipate heat.

**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

Occupational Safety and Health

Part 243 Motor Vehicle and Motor Equipment Safety

Chapter 4 Powered Industrial Trucks

243 FW 4

F. Smoking and ignition sources are prohibited within the battery charging area. Designated battery charging areas will be posted with signs stating "DANGER - NO SMOKING OR IGNITION SOURCES."

G. Take precautions to prevent open flames, sparks, or electric arc in the battery charging area.

H. Keep tools and other metallic objects away from the top of uncovered batteries.

4.10 Is safety/emergency equipment necessary?

A. Work areas where battery charging activity or battery-related corrosive materials (e.g., acids) are stored and used must have suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body within the immediate work area. We recommend that eyewash and shower facilities be of the permanent plumbed type connected to a potable water source. The unobstructed travel distance from the eyewash and shower system to the corrosive material usage area must not exceed 100 feet travel distance or 10 seconds travel time.

B. Provide an adequate means of employee first response to a fire situation (e.g., portable fire extinguisher), coupled with employee fire extinguisher training, proper maintenance, and monthly inspections per 29 CFR 1910.157.

4.11 Do I need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)? Employees involved in charging or maintaining PIT batteries, including adding acids, must wear adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect the skin and eyes from injury. Employees should review a battery charging Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) to determine the appropriate types of PPE to wear. In most cases, the PPE ensemble will consist of splash goggles and/or face shield, acid resistant apron, and acid resistant gloves.